

fact we abhor definitions. It seems to us that only the intellectually lost would voluntarily consent to a curtailment of intellectual horizon through adhesion to any definition of an abstract subject. The simplest and homeliest things admit of divers and most complex definitions. Consider, for example, the simplest concrete object which occupies space; namely, the pyramid. It presents but three sides and a base, and yet, depending upon the points from which it is viewed it admits of four separate definitions. How unprofitable a thing then must be any attempt to define criticism.

S. N. I.

In the September issue of the JOURNAL appeared an article by Dr. Kress, Secretary of the Los Angeles Association, giving an account of the experience of their County Association in trying to start a collection bureau.

That phase of the work they found unprofitable. But they did find that a set of slips, printed on gummed paper, each slip carrying a sentence or two calling attention to an account overdue, the slip to be pasted on the bill and sent to the debtor, brought excellent results. It seemed to be so promising that the Council of the State Society ordered a number of sets of these "stickers" or "pasters" printed for the general use of members of the State Society. It was announced in the September issue that a set of stickers would be sent to any member who would send a request for them to the Secretary, Dr. Philip Mills Jones, Butler Building, San Francisco. Within a week after that number of the JOURNAL had been issued, over a hundred requests for sets of stickers had been received and every mail brings more such requests. Evidently there are a number of members and subscribers who read their JOURNAL about as soon as it reaches them, which is certainly encouraging. There are still plenty of these slips on hand and a set will be sent to any subscriber or member who will take the trouble to send a request for them to the Secretary, Dr. Jones. You will find that they will be a material help to you in collecting slow accounts. Send for a set to-day and try them.

We are in receipt of a most entertaining circular letter headed (in typewriting) "Mazdaznan University, San Francisco Section, O. Thummel, Principal." **MAZDAZNAN EXTENSION.** It is addressed to a member of the Society and announces the soon-to-be-given course of very exclusive lectures to physicians only. The course of lectures consists of six and the price is only \$40.00. The document is quite too long to quote in full, but it certainly is an amusing piece of charlatanism and ignorance mixed with an acute perception of the truth of Mr. Somebody's remark that there is a sucker born every minute! "In our last lesson we will give some revelations of the possibilities of curing diseases which, even to-day, are considered incurable by conscientious physicians." One can

not but wonder how many people are caught by such a suggestion as this, for example: "We are also giving private instructions to doctors on some of the vital sex questions: How to prolong the act of intercourse without waste of sex fluids." The circular also states that "During our absence enrollment will be attended to by our friend Dr. E. H. Mattner." On looking the matter up it is found that Dr. E. H. Mattner is given as a member of the San Francisco County Medical Society. "O. Thummel" does not appear to be recorded in the books of the Board of Examiners.

MEDICAL EDUCATION IN EUROPE. THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING, 1912.

This report on Medical Education in Europe also comes from the pen of Mr. Abraham Flexner who has given us such a vivid and on the whole accurate description of the condition of medical education in our own country. The report embodies an enormous amount of information, carefully digested and presented in admirable form. To one who is really interested in medical education I cannot imagine more instructive reading. The conditions in Germany with which the reviewer is more familiar are presented in an excellent manner. The amount of insight displayed into a method of education so thoroughly different from our own is truly wonderful, especially when the short time devoted to this study is taken into account. There are of course many points which are debatable but on the whole Mr. Flexner brings out very strongly the advantages and the disadvantages of the German system. It is weak in some respects in the teaching for the average student, but for the best it is almost an ideal one. It is to be hoped that our country will profit from the experiences of others and in due time will develop an American system of medical education based on German ideals tempered with more compulsory practical instruction in laboratories, clinics and hospital wards following in this regard to some extent the methods so admirably developed in Great Britain and France.

W. O.

THE SKIN REACTION IN SYPHILIS.

The diagnostic possibilities offered by the Noguchi "luetin" cutaneous test are becoming more apparent with increased experience. At the recent annual meeting of the American Dermatological Association the matter was discussed and clinicians from different parts of the country gave the results of their brief experience with the new test. From the few hundred cases so far observed, it appears that the test has some value in manifest tertiary and latent cases, in which conditions it is positive more often than the Wassermann reaction. If it proves to be of assistance in those